Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 205626
ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-08 COME-00 TRSE-00 DHA-05 FEA-01
PRS-01 SS-15 SIG-01 OMB-01 USIE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00
INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03
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EB/OIA:CBOND(INFO)
D:LPASCOE
DOC/DIBA/B EPR:THADRABA
TREASURY:PBRIDGES(INFO)
NSC: HYLAND
FEA:TCUTLER(INFO)
S/PRS:JTRATTNER
S/S-O:RPERIT"
EUR/CE:RBARKLEY
EUR/P:WGEHRON
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O R 271454Z AUG 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USBERLIN IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 205626

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: US, GW, WB, OVIP

SUBJECT: GOVERNING MAYOR'S VISIT A SUCCESS
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PAGE 02 STATE 205626

REF: USBERLIN 2233; BONN 13867

1. DEPT CONSIDERS STOBBE'S FIRST VISIT TO WASHINGTON
AS GOVERNING MAYOR TO HAVE BEEN HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL.
DURING TWO WORKING DAYS OF VISIT (AUGUST 22-23) STOBBE
SAW THE PRESIDENT, THE VICE PRESIDENT, NATIONAL SECURITY

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

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AFFAIRS ADVISER BRZEZINSKI, ACTING SECRETARY CHRISTOPHER, AND ENERGY SECRETARY SCHLESINGER, AND HAD DISCUSSIONS WITH OFFICIALS FROM THE NSC, STATE AND COMMERCE. HIGHLIGHTS OF TALKS ARE SET FORTH BELOW.

2. WHITE HOUSE MEETINGS: STOBBE MET WITH THE PRESIDENT, VICE PRESIDENT AND DR. BRZEZINSKI FOR 25 MINUTES, FOLLOWED BY TEN MINUTES WITH MONDALE AND BRZEZINSKI. STOBBE ALSO SAW AARON AT NSC. HIGHLIGHTS:

A. THE PRESIDENT TOLD STOBBE THAT IF THERE IS A CHANCE, IT WILL BE ONE OF HIS HIGHEST PRIORITIES TO VISIT BERLIN WHEN HE GOES TO THE FRG. HE SAID HE WOULD HAVE NO OBJECTION TO STOBBE'S ANNOUNCING TREASURY SECRETARY BLUMENTHAL'S NOVEMBER TRIP TO BERLIN TO THE PRESS;
B. STOBBE TOLD THE PRESIDENT OF BERLIN'S DESIRE FOR ADDITIONAL US INVESTMENT IN BERLIN, AND MADE PITCH FOR USG SUPPORT TO PUT FORD PLANT IN BERLIN. THE PRESIDENT POINTED OUT IT WAS NOT CUSTOMARY FOR THE PRESIDENT TO GET INVOLVED IN SUCH DECISIONS AND SUGGESTED STOBBE RAISE FORD MATTER AT COMMERCE. THE PRESIDENT CITED THE LONDON SUMMIT DECLARATION ON BERLIN AS TESTIMONY TO US SUPPORT FOR BERLIN'S ECONOMIC VITALITY;

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C. IN REPLY TO STOBBE'S OBSERVATION THAT SOVIETS LIKE TO USE BERLIN TO TEST A NEW ADMINISTRATION, THE PRESIDENT ASSURED STOBBE THAT PRESENT USG WILL BE AS STAUNCH A SUPPORTER OF BERLIN AS PREVIOUS ADMINISTRATIONS,AND ASKED THAT STOBBE CONTACT HIM DIRECTLY OR VIA CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT IF SERIOUS PROBLEMS ARISE;

D. STOBBE SAID HIS EFFORTS ARE IN SUPPORT OF HUMAN RIGHTS BY SEEKING FURTHER HUMAN IMPROVEMENTS--TO GET ANOTHER HOLE IN THE WALL. THE PRESIDENT SAID HE WAS STICKING TO HIS HUMAN RIGHTS STATEMENTS, WHICH WOULD BE BENEFICIAL IN THE LONG RUN. HE SAID HE REALIZED THE SOVIETS WERE ANNOYED, AND WERE SEEKING TO USE THIS ISSUE TO GET BETTER RELATIONS WITH FRANCE AND THE FRG. HE SAID THE US DID NOT NECESSARILY EXPECT OTHER COUNTRIES TO MAKE SIMILAR STATEMENTS;

E. STOBBE SAID AT CONCLUSION OF THE MEETING "MR. PRESIDENT, MY CITY IS YOUR CITY."

F. IN SUCCEEDING MEETING, THE VICE PRESIDENT RESPONDED

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

TO STOBBE'S DESCRIPTION OF THE NEGATIVE EFFECT FOR
BERLIN OF US TAX LAW IN THE AREA OF US INVESTMENT
AND CONFERENCES BY SAYING IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE TO
SEE IF SOMETHING CAN BE DONE IN CONGRESS, BUT THAT
HE WAS DOUBTFUL OF THE PROSPECTS.

3. COMMERCE MEETING: STOBBE MET WITH ASSISTANT
SECRETARY FOR TOURISM CHAVEZ AND DEPUTY ASSISTANT
SECRETARY FOR INTERNATIONAL COMMERCE MORAN AND OTHER
COMMERCE OFFICIALS (UNDER SECRETARY HARMAN WAS UNABLE
TO ATTEND, BUT WENT TO LUNCHEON FOR STOBBE AT STATE).
POINTS MADE BY COMMERCE:

A. COMMERCE WISHED TO BE HELPFUL ON BERLIN VIABILITY;
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PAGE 04 STATE 205626

MENTIONED THAT STILL AWAITING MATERIAL FROM BERLIN
ON INVESTMENT ADVANTAGES FOR PUBLICATION IN "COMMERCE
TODAY;"

B. POSSIBLY COUNTERPRODUCTIVE FOR COMMERCE TO ATTEMPT DI-
RECTLY TO INFLUENCE FORD COMPANY DECISION; COMMERCE OFFERED
TO ASSIST MAYOR IN ESTABLISHING CONTACT WITH HENRY FORD II.
C. COMMERCE AND STATE FAVOR SENATOR
RIBICOFF'S EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE TAX SPARING PROVISIONS,
I.E. TO PERMIT BENEFIT OF OVERSEAS TAX INCENTIVES FOR
INVESTMENT TO BE PASSED ON TO US FIRMS.

4. STATE DEPT MEETINGS: STOBBE ATTENDED LUNCHEON
HOSTED IN HIS HONOR BY ACTING SECRETARY CHRISTOPHER,
HAD DISCUSSIONS WITH ACTING EUR ASSISTANT SECRETARY
VINE AND SPOKE TO INTERAGENCY ROUNDTABLE CHAIRED
BY EUR/CE OFFICE DIRECTOR WOESSNER. DISCUSSIONS
WERE WIDE-RANGING AND COVERED BERLIN, EAST-WEST
RELATIONS AND US/FRG RELATIONS. MAJOR BERLIN ISSUES
NOT REPORTED ABOVE WERE AS FOLLOWS:

A. ON BERLIN AIR SITUATION STOBBE FAVORED SOME
ACCOMMODATION WITH GDR (PERHAPS INTERFLUG FLIGHTS
TO WESTERN EUROPE) WHICH WOULD MAKE NORTH-SOUTH FLIGHTS
BY NON-ALLIED AIRLINES TO TEGEL POSSIBLE, PROVIDED
THIS COULD BE DONE WITHOUT BEING DRAWN INTO
DISCUSSION OF CORRIDOR REGIME WITH SOVIETS;

B. WE ASSURED STOBBE THAT WE HAD EMPHASIZED TO GDR
THAT DIFFICULTIES IN BERLIN WOULD HAVE A NEGATIVE
EFFECT ON US/GDR BILATERAL RELATIONS;

C. STOBBE SAID HE WAS IN NO HURRY TO PUSH FOR RESULTS
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Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

IN INNER-GERMAN NEGOTIATIONS. FACT THEY WERE GOING
ON WOULD MAKE IT LESS LIKELY THAT GDR WOULD MAKE
TROUBLE IN BERLIN. HE SAID IMPORTANT THAT ALLIES
BE PROMPTLY AND PRECISELY INFORMED ON THE NEGOTIATIONS;

D. STOBBE AGREED THERE WAS NEED FOR IMPROVEMENT IN
GERMAN INTER-AGENCY COORDINATION ON MATTERS AFFECTING
BERLIN.

5. PRESS: PRESS HAD PHOTO OPPORTUNITY IN OVAL
OFFICE BEFORE MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT, AND STOBBE
REPORTED TO PRESS ON MEETING IMMEDIATELY THEREAFTER.
PHOTO OF STOBBE WITH THE PRESIDENT MADE FRONT PAGE
OF NEW YORK TIMES AUGUST 23, AND MEETING RECEIVED
BRIEF COVERAGE ON US NATIONAL TV NEWS EVENING OF 22ND.
JOURNALISTS ACCOMPANYING STOBBE RECEIVED BACKGROUND
BRIEFING BY DAVID AARON AT NSC AND MET WITH BRUCE
VAN VOORST, CONGRESSIONAL AIDE TO SENATOR CLARK (D-IOWA).
THEY ATTENDED NOON PRESS BRIEFING AT DEPT AUG 23 AND
MET WITH ACTING DEPT PRESS SPOKESMAN TRATTNER. GROUP
FAILED TO MAKE PRESS BACKGROUNDER AT DEPT SCHEDULED
FOR 4:15 AFTERNOON OF 22ND BECAUSE OF RUSH TO MEET
BERLIN DEADLINES FOR REPORTS ON STOBBE MEETING WITH
THE PRESIDENT. CHRISTOPHER

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Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

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